(c) whether recovery proceeding against the company has been initiated by I.F.C.I. and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The IFCI Limited has reported that the Essar Power Ltd. had committed default in payment of interest and principal to IFCI. IFCI has approved a substantive restructuring proposal in August/September, 2002 in terms of which the company was to make an upfront payment of Rs. 19.79 crore towards part payment of overdues by 15.10.2002. The Company has cleared the entire amount of Rs. 19.97 crore.

(b) In accordance with the practice and usages customary among the banks, and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing the financial institutions as also provisions of the Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, information in respect of the constitutents of the Public Financial Institutions cannot be divulged.

(c) The IFCI Ltd. has issued a notice to the company advising them to clear other instalments, failing which IFCI Ltd. shall be constrained to revoke the package, restore the liability and take legal action for recovery of dues.

BPL population

673. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has lauded India's progress in poverty reduction during the last decade;

(b) if so, the percentage of India's population living below poverty line in 1991 and the percentage of Below Poverty Line in 2002; and

(c) what percentage of population below poverty line is likely to be achieved at the end of Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The percentage of population living below poverty line in the country has been estimated as 36% in 1993-94 and 26.1 % in 1999-2000. Estimates of percentage of India's population living below poverty line in 1991 and 2002 are not available.

(c) Consistent with the overall growth target of 8% per annum, the percentage of population living below poverty line has been projected to be 19.3% at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Allotment of funds to States for cancer treatment

674. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal of allotting funds to States for cancer treatment for people of BPL in all major Government hospitals of all States;

(b) whether the Finance Ministry is willing to co-ordinate with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to formulate such a plan;

(c) if so, by when any official proposal would be worked out between the two Ministries; and

(d) if not, whether Government are willing to consider giving any medical concessions to the poor suffering from cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Under the National Cancer Control Programme, funds are provided for various schemes being implemented through the NGOs and the State Government Organizations. Funds are not earmarked for any specific State or any particular class/group Of people. Grant-in-aid proposals are to be received with the State Government's recommendations.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has so far recognized twenty Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs. In these Regional Cancer Centres and in the Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges, a large number of poor patients are being treated either free of cost or at